

REMARKS

Provisional Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 10-14, and 16 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-127 of copending Application Serial No. 10/958,435. 3/31/06 Office Action, page 2, last paragraph.

Claims 1, 3, 10-14 and 16 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-105 of copending Application Serial No. 10/683,314. 3/31/06 Office Action, page 3, second full paragraph.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the provisional, non-statutory double patenting rejections. Applicants respectfully note that except for these provisional rejections, the claims are currently in condition for allowance. Applicants also note that as of the submission date of this amendment, the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system shows that both reference patent applications are still awaiting first office actions. Under these circumstances, the provisional rejections should be withdrawn and the claims should be allowed. *See* MPEP 8th Edition Incorporating Revision No. 4, § 804(I)(B)(1), page 800-17. Given that claim 10 has been canceled, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3, 11-14 and 16.

Withdrawn Claims

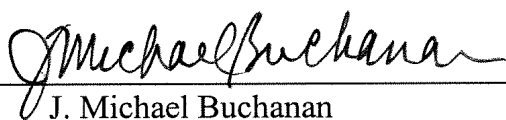
Claims 2, 4, 5, and 15 were previously withdrawn from consideration as not directed to elected species. 10/13/05 Office Action, page 3, second full paragraph. Believing that claims directed to elected species are now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and allowance of claims 2, 4, 5, and 15. *See* MPEP 8th Edition Incorporating Revision No. 4, § 821.04.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

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